in which King Birendra, Queen Aishwarya and some other members of the Royal family of Nepal were killed. However, there are no confirmed and verified reports or information indicating that Indian families have been leaving Nepal immediately after the tragic incident on June 1, 2001.

The Government of India is following the developments in Nepal closely and is taking all steps as are necessary to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals in Nepal.

Approval for Issuing Visas

2032. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than three lakh foreigners had applied for visas to visit India to avail themselves of medical aid;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is not giving its approval for issuing visas to them; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) A number of foreigners apply every year for visa for medical treatment in India.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Visas are issued to them in normal course by the concerned Mission/Post subject to usual checks.

Indians leaving Nepal

2033. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of Indian families living in Nepal for decades are leaving for India immediately after the massacre of Royal family;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Nepalese Government; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?